(c) The resultant growth of telephone connections per annum on an average over the 8th Five Year Plan period is likely to be more than 25 percent with respect to the number of telephones at the begining of the Plan.

Illegal telephone connections

4494. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news items captioned "MTNL taken for a ride by captains", which appeared to the Business Standard of the 21st January, 1995;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, including the names of persons/companies involved in the illegal connections with non-metered lines;

(c) whether any assessment has been made about the loss suffered by MTNL on account of this incident and if so, the details thereof and whether the said amount has been recovered from the persons/company concerned if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted to ascertain the involvement of officials of MTNL and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) what action Government have taken so far against those persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of companies/individuals involved in the illegal connection with non-metered lines are as under:—

(i) M/s. Usha (India) Ltd.

(ii) Shri Girish Sarin

(iii) M/s. Appollo Tyres

(iv) Shri Bhupender Kumar

(v) Smt. Vibha Bhatia

(c) The loss has been estimated at Rs. 70.7 lakhs approximately, out of which Rs. 29.2 lakhs approx; have been realised due to sustained efforts of MTNL. Efforts are being made to realise the balance amount also.

(d) and (e) Assistance of CBI was sought to pinpoint the officials of MTNL involved. However, so far it has not been possible to identify the involved officials.

Introduction of EPABX in Apartments and Group Housing Societies

4495. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL, New Delhi has recently announced to introduce new EPABX system on high rise apartments and group housing societies;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed system;

(c) whether MTNL propose to assign the task to the private entrepreneurs; and

(d) if so, to what extent it is going to clear the mounting wating lists for new telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Salient features of the Scheme are as under:

(1) Private parties will be authorised under a licence to install, maintain and operate Direct indialling Group EPABXs of sizes 128 to 1024P in multistoreyed buildings and Group Housing Societies.

(2) Junction lines to such EPABXs will be sanctioned on out of turn priority basis under NOYT general category. These junction lines will be charged 20 per cent additional rent.

(3) Extensions of these EPABXs can be provided to intending subscri-

bers located in the multistoreyed buildings within 500 mts. of the location of EPABX.

(4) EPABXs located in a private compound can cater to all type of buildings within the private compound.

(5) Extension users of EPABX will be allotted telephone numbers and these numbers will also be printed in telephone directory and they will be accessible from any telephone like normal DOT subscribers.

(6) The EPABXs franchisee will be allowed to charge the extension users a maximum of Rs. 100/- p.m. as rent and call charges at a flat rate of Rs. 1.25 per call unit.

(7) The franchise will be paid commission of 20 paise per call unit for first 10,000 call units, 15 paise per call unit from 10,000 to 20,000 call units and 10 paise per call unit beyond 20,000 call units on each outgoing junction in a month.

(d) The scheme will help in reducing the waiting list to the extent the wait listed applicants opt for connections from EPABXs run under franchise scheme.

Rural Postal Life Insurance Scheme

4496. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently launched rural postal life insurance scheme;

(b) if so, the place for which this scheme has been launched;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce the said scheme in all parts of the country, including Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheme was introduced all over the country where PLI work has been computerised. In all the States except J & K and West Bengal, PLI work has been computerised and hence the scehme has not been introduced in the two States.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Scheme has been introduced in Madhya Pradesh.

Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana

4497. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a new scheme, Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana;

(b) if so the main objectives of the scheme;

(c) whether the scheme has been extended in the tribal districts of Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details of work done in that regard in Koraput district of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of the scheme is to provide basic postal facilities in the rural areas under supervision of the panchayats and also to create opportunities for gainful employment for the educated.

(c) and (d) The scheme is proposed to be extended in the whole country. The details of the scheme is being shortfall finalised.

Computerised Post Offices in Madhya Pradesh

4498. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Post Offices in Madhya Pradesh where computer-based counter service is proposed in the Action Programme of the Department, during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and